



Disaster and Emergency Management Resources

Buying a NOAA Weather Radio

- NOAA Weather Radio is a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, broadcasting on seven VHF Band frequencies ranging from 162.400 MHz to 162.550 MHz. These frequencies are outside the normal AM or FM broadcast bands and, therefore are not found on the average home radio.
- NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts can be heard as far as 40 miles from the antenna site. The effective range depends on many factors, particularly the terrain, the quality of the receiver, and current weather conditions.
- The broadcast schedule consists of recorded messages that are repeated every three to five minutes and are routinely revised to provide the latest and up-to-date information. The broadcasts on NOAA Weather Radio are tailored to the weather needs of the people within the receiving area and include a variety of programming subjects.
- During severe weather and/or other potentially hazardous events, the regularly scheduled programming is interrupted to substitute severe weather information (including warnings, watches, etc.), or other hazardous informational messages. Special NOAA Weather Radio receivers can be activated, sounding an alarm indicating that important information soon follows and that listeners should monitor their weather radios for the information.
- In extreme cases, NOAA Weather Radio will be used to alert the public of non-weather-related emergencies, such as earthquakes, toxic or chemical spills, civil emergencies, national attacks, or nuclear blasts.
- Many local retailers or electronics stores sell NOAA Weather Radios.

Adapted from resource material developed by the National Weather Service